

Media release



26 August 2024

Statement: Goodstart Blair Athol

"An internal investigation is underway after two children were quickly and safely returned to the centre by educators after they left an outdoor area through a damaged fence panel at our Blair Athol centre.

We have apologised to the families of the children involved in the incident.

Three educators were supervising nine children in the area at the time and one of them raised the alarm after noticing two children - who had been playing near a section of bamboo - were no longer in the outdoor area.

The educator found the fence panel could be pushed open and swiftly followed the children. At the same time an educator arriving for work also saw the children, who were immediately returned to the centre unharmed.

A visual safety check of the outdoor area was conducted before children were allowed to use it - but it seems the damage to the fence panel was missed as it was screened by bamboo. The fence was quickly secured after the incident.

The safety of children in our care is our first priority and we are reviewing our daily safety checks and other procedures to ensure this type of incident is never repeated.

Goodstart will co-operate fully with the regulator.

Safety wraps around everything and we have a designated Safety Champion in every centre to support our teams to keep safety top-of-mind and to share learnings to drive continuous improvement across the centre and the organisation.

We recently introduced a new Hazard and Inspection tool, to help keep children safe, healthy and well.

Goodstart has been honoured with the Child Safe Organisation Award at the 2023 and 2024 Queensland Child Protection Week Awards for our national programs."



For more information

0437 869 150 or media@goodstart.org.au.

Notes for editors: Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest not for profit early learning provider with 655 centres nationwide supporting 61,000 children from 51,000 families. We are committed to improving the lives of Australia's children and their families. Website: goodstart.org.au.

Acknowledgement of country: Goodstart acknowledges all Traditional Custodians and recognises First Nations peoples' continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land, sky and waterways. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.